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Zu einem Vorgange, wie ich ihn hier gezeichnet habe, ist jedoch Zeit erforderlich. Man häufe daher nicht zu viel Stoff auf eine Stufe und beobachte bei der Abfassung der detaillierten Lehrgänge genau die für die Sprachlehre zur Verfügung stehende Stundenzahl! Andernfalls beginnt schon auf der Unterstufe die oberflächliche Behandlung, die Kinder haben nur einen Schein, etwas Halbes, da man nicht Zeit hatte, es gründlich einzuüben. In der folgenden Klasse wiederholt sich der Vorgang, das Alte kann nicht gründlich wiederholt, das Neue nicht gründlich eingeübt werden, und diese Ungründlichkeit und Verschwommenheit schleppt sich fort und zeitigt jene Resultate, von denen Bürgerschullehrer, Mittelschullehrer, Lehrer an Gewerbe- und Handelsschulen soviel erzählen.

## Berichte und Notizen.

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### I. The Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Modern Language Association of America at Columbia University, New York City.

The eastern section of the Modern Language Association of America had its seventeenth annual meeting at Columbia University, New York City, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 27, 28, 29, 1899. The purposes of these annual meetings are partly scientific, and partly social.

The five regular sessions, which took place on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday forenoons and afternoons in the large auditorium of Schermerhorn Hall were devoted to the reading and discussion of papers on some linguistic or literary subject of scholastic bearing. The widest possible scope has been allowed in the choice of subjects of late years, and the result has been, principally owing to the wisdom and excellent judgment of the secretary of the association, Professor James W. Bright, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., a very interesting variety in the proceedings, offering new material and stimulating suggestions to the technical philologist, as well as the literary man, or the student of general pedagogical questions. Out of the twenty-six papers read (five of which, however, were read merely by title), the following treated questions of Germanics:

- (1) "The first Paralipomena of Goethe's "Faust", when written?" By Professor *Eugene W. Manning*, "Delaware College".
- (2) "On the historical development of the types of the first person plural imperative in German." By Professor *W. Kurrelmeyer*, "Franklin and Marshall College".
- (3) "Fatalism in Hauptmann's Dramas." By Dr. *M. Schuetze*, "University of Pennsylvania".
- (4) "Rime-parallelism in Old High-German verse." By Professor *B. J. Vos*, "Johns Hopkins University".
- (5) "Germanic Elements in *King Horn*". By Professor *George H. McKnight*, "Ohio State University".
- (6) "The Curse-idea in Goethe's "Iphigenie auf Tauris". By Dr. *C. A. Eggert*, Chicago, Ill.

(7) "Problematical characters in German fiction." By Professor A. B. Faust, "Wesleyan University" (read by title).

(8) Professor Edward S. Joynes, "South Carolina College", who was to read a paper on "Dictation and Composition in Modern Language teaching", did not put in an appearance.

The paper of the president, Professor H. C. G. von Jagemann of Harvard University, on "Philology and Purism", read at the extra session on Wednesday night, at 8:30 P.M., an abstract of which I must refrain from giving for lack of space, was of the highest interest to any student of Language.

Other papers of general interest were Professor George Hempl's, University of Michigan, on "A'n't and h'n't"; Dr. Gertrude Bruce's of Vassar College on "The present state of rhetorical theory"; and Professor F. N. Scott's of the University of Michigan, on "Figurative elements in the terminology of English Grammar."

Of other business transacted the most important was the adoption, without amendments, of the Report of the Modern Language Association's Committee of Twelve, Professor Calvin Thomas of Columbia College, chairman, on *Modern Languages*.

The short discussion preceding the vote revealed the unanimous conviction of the members present, that the report represented one of the most important achievements in the history of Language study. There is hardly any doubt that this report will form an entirely new basis of Modern Language Study in this country. It has been reprinted separate from the report of the U. S. Commissioner of Education for 1897-98, Chapter XXVI. Those who desire to secure a copy should write either to the U. S. Bureau of Education, or to the Secretary of the Association, Professor James W. Bright, of Johns Hopkins University, to whom should also be directed all inquiries regarding the "Modern Language Publications" in which the papers read before the Association are printed.

As to the social side, care was taken by the hosts of the Association, Columbia University and its officers, that the serious work was well balanced by the pleasure of the occasion. It is a great pleasure, indeed, merely to stroll through the University campus with its wide view from the top of the hill on which it stands commanding all the surrounding country; and there were not a few of the 150 men and about thirty women in attendance, who like naughty little boys and girls, sneaked from the auditorium when the atmosphere of warming threatened to become too thick and heavy, to refresh themselves by a breath of the brisk air from the Harlem river, and to forget themselves for a while in contemplating the beauty and grandeur of some of the buildings of the University, that in their massive harmony look as if they had been built by — or for? — giants. It is not easy to find the sublimity of the Library, built in the style of the Roman Pantheon, with its magnificent approach, or the sturdy and wellproportioned solidity of the athletic building surpassed anywhere.

After the extra session on Wednesday night, our colleagues from Columbia conducted us to a hotel not far from the University to a regular old-fashioned Kneipe, where we found song books, printed for the occasion, containing English, German and French patriotic and drinking songs, separate, or mixed up to suit the requirements and express the harmony among the banqueters. Everybody had as jolly a good old time as he could desire; and it was a late moon that smiled on the last guests picking their way home through the snow.

On Thursday night the Association were the guests of President and Mrs. Seth Lew, whose splendid hospitality they enjoyed to a late hour.

The pleasures of the members of the Association were greatly increased

through the hospitable reception they received at the University Club and the Century Club of New York, in whose splendid homes they spent many a comfortable hour.

When at last the hour of the parting hand shake arrived, every face revealed the feeling that many new and encouraging suggestions, and many pleasant reminiscences, begotten by the zest of good fellowship, had found their way into heads and hearts of all of us who are united by a common purpose.

Martin Schütze.

University of Pennsylvania.

## II. Die N. E. A. in Los Angeles.

Von Paul Gerisch, Milwaukee, Wis.

„Auf welche Weise kann aus einem nordamerikanischen Indianer ein achtbarer Bürger der Vereinigten Staaten gemacht werden?“

College - Präsidenten, Schulsuperintendenten, Armeeeoffiziere und Regierungsbeamte diskutierten obiges Thema bei der ersten Sitzung des *„Institute of the Indian School Service“* am Montag Morgen, den 10. Juli 1899. Nach einem unleugbaren „Jahrhundert der Unehre“ hat man endlich einen Weg gefunden, so meinten die Redner, um die indianischen Kinder der Civilisation entgegenzuführen. Sie bezeichneten als ungerecht und unwahr die oft wiederholten Worte: „Oh! Ihr gebt den Indianern nur die Anfänge der Civilisation. Sie gehen doch immer zu ihrem Feuerwasser und zu ihren Wollendecken zurück.“ Diese Ansicht verdanke ihre Entstehung und Verbreitung den schändlichen Märchen, welche die gelben Sonntagsbeilagen unserer gelben Blätter erzählen von den Graduierten der Indianerschulen, welche weisse Frauen heirateten und dann ganz besonderes Vergnügen daran fänden, ihre Nachkommen in den Küchenofen zu werfen und ihre Weiber zur Zielscheibe von Pistolenkugeln zu machen.

Capt. A. C. Tonner, der nationale Assistenzkommissär für Indianerangelegenheiten, sagte: Es kostet Billionen, um die weissen Kinder zu erziehen, und doch sind die Zuchthäuser und Korrekptionsanstalten überall im ganzen Lande überfüllt; es fallen im Verhältnis weniger Indianerkinder in den Barbarismus zurück als weisse Kinder.“

Das Reservationen-System wurde als ein grosser Fehler bezeichnet. Das Aufgehen der Indianer in der weissen Bevölkerung sei die beste Lösung des Indianer-Problems, und es sei höchst wünschenswert, dass das separate Bureau für Indianerangelegenheiten und die separaten Indianerschulen abgeschafft würden.

Major Pratt aus Carlisle rief nicht wenig Sensation hervor, als er behauptete, die Indianeragenten würden nicht deshalb zu ihrem Posten ernannt, weil sie fähig dazu seien, sondern weil sie politischen Einfluss besässen. „Wir haben Verträge mit den Stämmen abgeschlossen,“ sagte er auch, „welche den gänzlichen Untergang der Indianer zur Folge haben müssen, und das sind noch dazu Verträge, die durch den Einfluss der Missionen zu Stande gekommen sind.“

Die Halle war überfüllt, denn bekannte Redner hatten ihr Erscheinen angemeldet. Indianische Knaben und Mädchen lieferten musikalische Vorträge. Viele Lehrer, die an Indianerschulen unterrichteten, waren anwesend; ausserdem waren Hunderte von Leuten jeden Standes gekommen, die alle dieser eigenartigen Versammlung grosses Interesse entgegenbrachten. Die N. E. A. hat gar kein Departement für Indianererziehung. Frl. Estelle Reel, Supt. der Indianerschulen, hatte die Versammlung, unabhängig von der N. E. A., zusammengerufen.